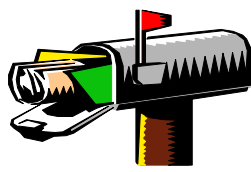


THE STANDARDIZATION NEWSLETTER

5203 LEESBURG PIKE, SUITE 1403
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041-3466

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE STANDARDS IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL



UPDATE ON THE MILSPEC REVIEW

Where We Are

The "SWAT" Team and Defense Standards Improvement Council (DSIC) completed their reviews of the 107 standards cited as major cost drivers in either *Report of the Industry Review Panel on Specifications and Standards*, the PAT Report on Military Specifications and Standards, or the TASC/Coopers & Lybrand Study, *The DoD Regulatory Cost Premium: A Quantitative Assessment*. The SWAT Team first took a hard look at each document's stated requirements and the questionnaire submitted by the Preparing Activity (PA), then balanced this data with industry comments. The SWAT Team's recommendations on the documents were presented to the DSIC, which then made the final decisions. A summary of the DSIC decisions on the 107 documents follows:

- * 49 have been, or will be, canceled or inactivated for new design;

- * 10 will be retained until they can be replaced by a non-Government standard;
- * 7 have been, or will be, converted to performance specifications;
- * 19 will be converted to handbooks or acquisition guides;
- * 1 will be converted to a Commercial Item Description.

The rest will be retained as standards or specifications, but many must be revised to reflect new policies for reliance on performance requirements.

What We Are Planning

The initial review of Military Standards yielded recommendations to cancel 156. We will solicit industry comments on the list by publishing it in the Commerce Business Daily and on our Home Page. We will also do a quick coordination of the list within DoD. Following closely on the heels of this, we will begin our review of the remaining 1400+ standards.

We still have much to do to improve the acquisition process. Each issue of *The Standardization Newsletter* will provide updates.

**COMMERCIAL ITEM
DESCRIPTIONS (CIDS) AND
MILITARY SPECIFICATIONS
(MILSPECS)**

We have noticed that frequently a CID has been written that completely replaces a MILSPEC, but the MILSPEC has not been canceled.

Be sure to take the final step and cancel the MILSPEC when you prepare a CID to take its place. Some people have said it was the preparing activity's policy to keep the MILSPEC until after the first procurement using the CID. However, looking at the dates, I suspect that the MILSPECS are just forgotten--never used again--and we end up with redundant product descriptions in the DODISS. Or worse yet, because the procurement file does not get purged, we continue to buy to the MILSPEC long after the CID has been completed. In any case, if you do need to use the MILSPEC again with short notice, you can simply resurrect it as a purchase description.

Please check your documents to see if you have MILSPECS that you should cancel. Let's take credit for the work already done!

(Chris Metz/SPD/703-681-9340)

DO YOU KNOW?

What president had the most Secretaries of Defense?

Harry S. Truman

(Four: James Forrestal, Louis Jordan, George Marshall, and Robert Lovett)

**DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
(DLA) HEADQUARTERS DepSO
RELOCATED TO FORT
BELVOIR COMPLEX**

The DLA Departmental Standardization Office (DepSO) moved in late July to its new quarters, located in the Fort Belvoir, VA complex. The address for the new HQ DLA complex -- Product Definition (Supply Management Policy Group) is listed below:

ATTN. MMSLP (Name)

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

**8725 JOHN J KINGMAN RD STE 2533
FT BELVOIR VA 22060-6221**

The DepSO staff stressed that any mail addressed to their office must have the envelope information typed in **CAPITAL LETTERS** to allow mail to be scanned and automatically routed.

The new telephone number for the acting DLA DepSO (**David Taylor**) is:

Telephone 703-767-1642

DSN: 427-1642

FAX: 703-767-2602

DSN: 427- 2602

E-mail address Send to first name/underscore/last name@hq.dla.mil

e.g. david_taylor@hq.dla.mil

(type DLA e-mail in lower case)

(Claire Arnold/DLA/703-767-2601)

SD-15--PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION GUIDE

The SD-15, ***Performance Specification Guide***, dated June 29, 1995, is now stocked and available for distribution from the DoD Single Stock Point in Philadelphia, PA. **We also plan to include it on our Home Page (see "Subscriptions" article), where it can be viewed or downloaded** This Guide will assist specification writers and DoD program offices to develop and use performance specifications. The ***Performance Specification Guide*** will also assist DoD personnel who provide input to non-government standards bodies. It is based on various existing publications from the Services and DLA, work by the ***Performance Specification Guide Working Group*** and was turned into a final version by PRC International (under contract).
(John Tascher/SPD/703-681-9340)

INTERNATIONAL OPTICAL STANDARDS MEETING, 5TH PLENARY SESSION

The ISO Technical Committee on Optics and Optical Instruments held its 5th plenary meeting in Tucson, AZ, June 5-17, 1995. This was the first time all 8 active subcommittees met simultaneously in working sessions. Some 270 experts, about 80% from outside the US, worked on writing international optical standards ranging from the staining of optical glass to specifications for laser components to the permeability of contact lens materials.

The plenary meeting was held under the auspices of the German Standards Institute and Secretariat for

ISO/TC 172. The plenary session of the meeting was devoted to planning the standards writing work for the next 3 years. It included a discussion of changing the scope and title of Technical Committee 172 to include electro-optics. This would expand the scope to include light sources, detectors, and the microprocessors used to tie electro-optical systems together as integrated packages. While the idea of the expanded scope was favorably received by the plenary session, details of the proposal were as yet too tenuous to be acted upon at the meeting.

Both the plenary meeting and the work of the ISO/TC 172 were considered very successful. Of the 160 proposed standards worked on by the 8 subcommittees, 40 have been published as international standards and a majority of the balance soon will be. Most notably, standards approved for publication, ISO 9211-Optical Coatings, ISO 10109-Environmental Requirements for Optical systems and ISO 10110-Preparation of Optical Drawings, will affect virtually all optical components and systems. These particular standards are already being incorporated in the specifications for major optical systems in the US and abroad. In the vast ophthalmic market, standards coming out of the ISO/TC 172 work are being incorporated in public health and safety codes in many countries.

(Robert E. Parks Optical Perspectives Group and Chairman of ISO/TC 172/SC/520-795-1850)

FY 1996 CLASS SCHEDULES FOR THE DEFENSE SPECIFICATION MANAGEMENT COURSE AND THE DEFENSE SPECIFICATION USERS COURSE

Courses taught by the U. S. Army Logistics Management College (ALMC)

All standardization training is Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Assignment-Specific and funded by the DAU. Assignment-Specific courses are courses that must be completed successfully in order for an individual to perform a specific set of duties, or a specific assignment within a position or the duties of the position itself. These duties, or this assignment, are not keyed to a single career field. They are not mandatory for certification unless otherwise stated.

Defense Specification Management -- DAU Course PQM 103 (10 Days)

Course should be taken by personnel assigned responsibility for writing, reviewing, coordinating, applying, or using specifications and related documents.

1.	96-001	12/4-14/95	Resident , Fort Lee, VA
2.	96-002	1/22-2/1/96	Resident , Fort Lee, VA
3.	96-701	4/23-5/3/96	DESC, Dayton, OH
4.	96-702	6/11-21/96	Metro Washington DC area
5.	96-003	8/5-15/96	Resident , Fort Lee, VA
6.	96-004	9/9-19/96	Resident , Fort Lee, VA

PQM 103 **Resident** courses begin on Monday; PQM 103 Onsite courses begin on Tuesday

Defense Specification Users Course -- DAU Course PQM 104 (5 Days)

Course should be taken by personnel who use or review non-Government standards, commercial item descriptions, specifications, standards, and related documents in the acquisition process but are not involved full time in document writing (development) functions.

1.	96-701	10/30-11/3/95	DPSC, Philadelphia, PA
2.	96-001	1/8-12/96	Resident , Fort Lee, VA
3.	96-002	2/12-16/96	Resident , Fort Lee, VA
4.	96-702	2/26-3/1/96	DPSC, Philadelphia, PA
5.	96-003	3/18-22/96	Resident , Fort Lee, VA
6.	96-703	4/1-5/96	DPSC, Philadelphia, PA
7.	96-704	5/13-17/96	DPSC, Philadelphia, PA
8.	96-705	5/20-24/96	DPSC, Philadelphia, PA
9.	96-706	6/24-28/96	DCSC, Columbus, OH
10.	96-707	7/22-26/96	DCSC, Columbus, OH
11.	96-708	9/30-10/4/96	DESC, Dayton, OH

Courses open to civilians, GS-07 and above, commissioned, warrant, and other military personnel. Industry may attend (first come, space available basis), with fees paid to DAU through ALMC. Fees for each class are--one week course (5 days) \$330; two week offsite course (9 days) \$594; two week resident course (10 days) \$660.

Defense Specification Management DAU PQM 103 (#96-702)
Washington, D. C. Metro Area

In FY 96, the two week Defense Specification Management Course will be offered in the Washington, D. C. Metro area on June 11-21, 1996. Usually, the course is taught here in late October and early November. **This will be the only offering of this course in the metro Washington area.**

General PQM 103 and PQM 104 Training Information

New DoD employees, or other career DoD employees needing training, should consider taking the resident Fort Lee, VA, courses. There will be space available. Please contact ALMC instructors **Rae Walker** or **Jim Weitzner** on **Area Code 804-765-4479** or **DSN 539-4479. Messrs.'s Walker and Weitzner** can provide information on how to schedule attendance (in their absence, contact **Harriet Cabaniss**, assigned ALMC Education Technician). DoD training coordinators have access to the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) and can provide the nomination due dates and process your DD Form 1556 training forms in order to guarantee a seat. Late entries will be considered on a case by case basis.

The DoD is cooperating with industry to teach non-acquisition personnel (non DoD employees) in the two DAU sponsored Defense Specification courses. Non DoD employees cannot be bumped by DoD employees once ATRRS schedules their attendance. All industry training requests must be submitted by the DoD organization having a contract with the industry group. Forms are submitted to ALMC, with fees paid directly to DAU. For questions concerning industry training, contact **Messrs. Walker and Weitzner** at the above noted telephone number.
(Sharon Strickland/SPD/703-681-9340)

NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Dr. John P. White was sworn in June 22, 1995, as the new Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Secretary of Defense **William Perry** presided at the Pentagon ceremony. The Senate unanimously confirmed **Dr. White's** appointment June 21, 1995. The new Deputy succeeds **John M. Deutch**, who became Director of the Central Intelligence Agency on May 10, 1995.

President Clinton nominated **Dr. White** for the position May 9, 1995. At that time, **Dr. White** had been Chairman of the Commission on Roles

and Missions of the Armed Forces and Director of the Center for Business and Government, at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. A former Marine Corps officer, **Dr. White** holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a master's and doctorate from Syracuse University.

From 1981 to 1992, he was a senior executive with Eastman Kodak Co. From 1978 to 1981, he served as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. He was Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics from 1977 to 1978.

Dr. White's appointment comes at a tumultuous time in American history. We wish him well in his new appointment as the Deputy Secretary of Defense. (Sharon Strickland/SPD/703-681-9340)

MILITARY HANDBOOK 179A

A DOD COMPONENT

ACQUISITION GUIDE

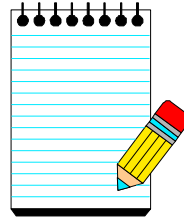
MIL-HDBK-179A "Microcircuit Acquisition Handbook," is a Department of Defense document that provides microcircuit acquisition guidelines for Program Managers (PMs)/System Program Offices (SPOs) and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). The handbook outlines a selection, approval, and procurement process that enables OEMs to use military and commercially specified microelectronics for military equipment.

The new "A" revision, dated July 20, 1995, is fully coordinated (tri-service) and was developed by the U S Army Research Laboratory with support from device suppliers, OEMs, Army, Navy, Air Force, Defense Logistics Agency, and OSD. The new revision addresses acquisition issues not covered in the original document; hence, the change in title from "Microcircuit Application Handbook" to "Microcircuit Acquisition Handbook." Future versions of the handbook will be expanded to cover all microelectronic devices (MCMs and MMICs), semiconductors (transistors and diodes), and passive (resistors and capacitors) parts.

The methodology described in the handbook is currently being applied in SINCGARS, BCIS, FH MUX, Comanche, PLGR, and is being studied for use in the F-22. Copies of the handbook will be available from the DoD Single Stock Point, Philadelphia, PA by mid-September, 1995.

(Patrick Layden, US Army Research Laboratory, AMSEL-PS-DC, Ft. Monmouth, NJ 07703)

SUBSCRIPTIONS



The Standardization Newsletter is issued quarterly, prepared and published by the OASD (Economic Security), Standardization Program Division. Single copies are sent free of charge to those on our mailing list. All editions are posted on our **Defense Standardization Program (DSP) Home Page**, where they can be viewed or downloaded. The DSP Home Page can be reached using a Web browser, such as Mosaic or Netscape, and entering the following location address (also referred to as a "URL"):
<http://www.acq.osd.mil/es/std/stdhome.html>

The Standardization Newsletter keeps our community aware of actions taking place, conference/seminar/meeting schedules, training information, and personnel changes. We welcome related articles!

Mail articles to ***The Standardization Newsletter*** Editor, **Sharon Strickland**, using the address on the front page. Requests to be added to the mailing list and address changes should be faxed immediately to the Editor at 703-681-7622 or DSN 761-7622.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 25-26, 1995

Partnership in Reliability, Maintainability, & Supportability (RMS) Standards Meeting

The American Society for Quality Control (ASQC) will sponsor the next RMS Partnership meeting, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, in Washington, DC. Agendas were mailed to primary points of contact for professional societies and industry associations for distribution to their respective organizational membership. Existing and future partnership representatives are encouraged to attend.
(Dr. Russell Vacante/DSMC/703-805-2828)

October 9-12, 1995

27th International Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE) Technical Conference, Hyatt Regency, Albuquerque, New Mexico

From October 9 through 12, 1995, attendees will focus on "Diversity Into the Next Century," and hear 120 papers presented in 16 sessions. The keynote speaker (Tuesday, October 10, 9:00 a.m.) is **Dr. William F. Ballhaus, Jr** Vice President, Science & Engineering,

Lockheed Martin Corp. **Dr. Ballhaus** will speak on: Waging Peace--Our Challenge for the 21st Century.

Over 700 engineers, scientists, government, and industry representatives from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia, are expected to attend this conference. Approximately 75 companies will display their products and services. For more information on this important conference, contact **Dr. Charles L. Hamermesh**, SAMPE Technical Director, at 818-331-0616, EXT. 602 or write to **Dr. Hamermesh** at SAMPE, PO Box 2459, Covina, CA 91722-8459.

SAMPE, founded in 1944, is an international educational and scientific association dedicated to the advancement of new materials and processes. SAMPE sponsors technical conferences and exhibitions, publishes proceedings and technical publications.

October 11-13, 1995

Standards Engineering Society (SES) 44th Annual Conference

The SES Conference will focus on Re-Engineering Standardization and includes a pre-conference professional development course on October 9 and 10. The 2 day course: *A Strategic Approach to Company Competitiveness*, is sponsored by the American National Standards Institute and Standards Council of Canada and is taught by Course Director, **Robert B. Toth** and **Lee E. Rogers PE**. For more information about the conference, being held in Washington, DC, or about the SES, contact **Donald Kear** at 513-258-1955.

October 25-26, 1995

**Joint Industry Government Conference
on Management Process Standards**

The conference will take place at the Hyatt Dulles-Herndon, VA, October 25-26, 1995, featuring a roundtable discussion with the Defense Standards Improvement Executives. The keynote speaker will be the **Honorable Joshua Gotbaum**, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Economic Security. Presentations will be given by other senior DoD and industry officials. The conference is co-sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and industry associations active in leading specifications and standards reform. Attendees will receive a status report from the military services and the Defense Logistics Agency Standards Improvement Executives. For more information on the conference contact:

Darlene Tawiah(EIA) 703-907-7568

Chris Denham(EIA) 703-907-7567

Bill Lewandowski(AIA) 703-371-8432

Joseph Siler(NSIA) 202-775-1304

Glenn Wisbey(SOLE) 301-459-8446

(Sharon Strickland/SPD/703-681-9340)

**ADPA PRESENTS THE
COVETED ROBERT H. STEARNS
AWARD**

Stephen C. Lowell is the latest recipient of the prestigious Stearns Award, presented by the American Defense Preparedness Association (ADPA), at the May 22-25, 1995, symposium, in Minneapolis, MN. **Steve** was recognized for his many contributions to the standardization community. His knowledge and expertise in standardization is actively sought by many organizations. The award is presented in memory of **Mr. Stearns** who through dedication to principle and aggressive pursuance to duty, earned outstanding recognition in both industry and military circles.

The ADPA is a primary forum for members of government, private industry, and the military to gather and discuss relevant issues affecting the defense industry. Each of ADPA's 26,000 members belongs to a local chapter and every one of them is eligible to join one of the twenty-three technical divisions at no additional cost. The ADPA provides a liaison among all elements of the defense community: government, academia, and the industrial base of the United States, so that the nation's defense resources will be ready to operate at maximum production in a minimum amount of time.

(Sharon Strickland/SPD/703-681-9340)

**WELCOME: NEW CHIEF,
SPECIFICATIONS AND
STANDARDS BRANCH, HQ,
AFMC/ENSS**

Lt. COL Daniel Mahre has joined the standardization community as the Chief, Specs and Stds., at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. As a former program manager, in charge of major Air Force acquisitions, **Lt. COL Mahre** brings a wealth of experience to his new job.

After graduation from the US Air Force Academy in 1975, he entered undergraduate navigator training at Mather AFB, CA, graduating in 1976 with an assignment to KC-135 Stratotankers. He has served as a line navigator, a squadron instructor, and Bomb Wing Evaluator. During his tour as an aircrew member, he served Strategic Air Command SIOP alert and in his free time completed a master's degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

From 1981 to 1986, **Lt. COL Mahre** was an instructor, training new navigators until 1984, when he joined the elite corps of the Central Flight Instructor Course. From 1986 to 1993, he held several prestigious positions at Wright-Patterson AFB. In 1994, he attended the Defense Systems Management College, Fort Belvoir, VA, and after graduation was selected as the new Chief, Specs and Stds. **Lt. COL Mahre** completed Squadron Officer School and Air Command, Staff College, and Air War College. He is a master navigator with over 3200 hours of flying time. **Lt. COL Mahre** is a welcome addition to the standardization community. He can be

reached at 513-257-7712 (DSN 787-7712), (Sharon Strickland/SPD/703-681-9340)

**ACQUISITION REFORM
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
(ARCC)**

To deliver a consistent message, to the right audience, delivered the right way, at the right time, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform, created the Acquisition Reform Communications Center (ARCC). The ARCC reports to **Tom Crean**, President, Defense Acquisition University, and is chartered to provide and disseminate information on how the government is changing the way it acquires goods and services. We are using a variety of media to spread the information as broadly and as quickly as possible. The ARCC seeks to educate and train the acquisition workforce to make use of information and to get feedback from the workforce on the value of the changes and information provided. The ARCC will soon offer a number of products that acquisition professionals in all functional areas will find useful. These products will provide current acquisition reform information that can be used to train and educate our DoD workforce. ARCC products include:

- Timely satellite broadcasts that reach large acquisition audiences with current acquisition reform information. The first broadcast was held June 28, 1995, and covered the new FASA rules. A second broadcast is scheduled for August 23, 1995, and will cover 9 of 11 FASA rules. More in-depth broadcasts are planned for late October.
- Major acquisition reform training modules (ARTMs). The training format is based on small work group exercises that emphasize applying

good business judgment in the implementation of the FASA principles,

procedures, and regulations. ARTMs are scheduled for release in September 1995.

- Interactive Training Compact Discs (CDs) which will supplement FASA training on a desktop level (geared to Contract Officer/Contract Specialist training). The first CD scheduled for release to the acquisition community will cover Simplified Acquisition Procedures (FACNET).
- The ARCC Bulletin is a quarterly publication which will announce major acquisition reform activities, address questions, and provide answers to FASA issues. The major Q&A will cover issues presented during satellite broadcasts.
- The ARCC will provide a central entry into the world of Internet/Worldwide Web acquisition reform activities. The ARCC will provide a Home Page that will carry important information.
- The ARCC will have an Acquisition Reform WATTS line that will provide information on acquisition reform, training, education, and where other issues can be addressed.

For more information on these and other ARCC activities, contact your ARCC point of contact or call the **ARCC Director, COL Sharolyn Hayes** at 703-845-6755 or **Kelley Jacobs** at 703-845-6634.

Acquisition Reform Comm. Ctr.:

703-845-6755

FAX: 703-379-4319

Attn. COL Sharolyn Hayes

(hayessi@acq.osd.mil)

(Sharon Strickland/SPD/703-681-9340)

EDITOR'S CORNER

The standardization community gathered to say farewell to the Air Force DepSO's **Major Charles "Chuck" Carter**, who recently retired from military service, and with his family, relocated to North Carolina. We will miss his cheerful mannerisms and expert leadership. The Air Force standardization community had a good friend in **Major Carter** and he will be missed.

Also leaving Air Force standardization is **Stephen Clark** WPAFB, OH, who has accepted a new position in the Air Force. **Steve** enhanced the Air Force standardization community by providing dynamic leadership and also by developing an Air Force newsletter that provided education and support tips for personnel. This type of leadership is always missed. We wish him great success in his new position!

The DoD standardization community recently said farewell and good luck to **COL Stanley Leja** who was recently appointed Program Manager for Operations Tactical Data Systems, PEO Command and Control Systems, at Ft. Monmouth, NJ. **COL Leja** joined our community as the Director of the Army's Military Specifications and Standards Acquisition Reform Office. This office was established to assist in the Army's implementation of the "Blueprint for Change." He will be missed by his many friends in the DoD standardization community.

The standardization community sends good thoughts and wishes for a healthy recovery to Navy standardization's

Howard Wildman who is presently hospitalized. Folks wanting news of his progress should contact **Claude Cassady** at 703-602-9137.

(Sharon Strickland/SPD/703-681-9340)

1995 DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY (DAU) SYMPOSIUM

Mrs. Colleen Preston Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform, is pictured above addressing attendees of the July 12-13, 1995, DAU symposium. She continually stressed to attendees that education and training are absolutely critical to acquisition reform.

Mrs. Preston hammered home that technological tools such as the Internet are valuable because the workforce and industry need immediate access to policy changes to do their jobs. She urged everyone to think about who our DoD customers are and said that change is coming faster than people can assimilate it. A great believer in training,

Mrs. Preston said that acquisition reform education and training courses are

stimulating and where the great challenges are. She urged DAU educators to work with other federal agencies to train customers, warfighters, the general public, industry, monitors (GAO, etc.), and

colleagues in civilian agencies. She said educators must operate as a team with students and that it is critical that the team has agreement. **Mrs. Preston** said that educators must teach people to think --to avoid second guessing. She stressed that the DoD acquisition corps must have the right tools to do the job. To spread the message to agencies and industry more efficiently, **Mrs. Preston** is having the DoD teach acquisition reform geographically, in order to reach large and diverse audiences. She believes diversity will create exciting classroom environments. (Sharon Strickland/SPD/703-681-9340)

Pictured above is **Mr. Walter B. (Brad) Bergmann** Director, Acquisition Practices, delivering a speech to the attendees of the 1995 DAU Symposium. **Mr. Bergmann** briefed on acquisition reform efforts related to specifications and standards.

SPIN-OFF TECHNOLOGY, FLAMELESS RATION HEATER-- HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI IMPROVED HUMAN CONDITIONS

The idea of a flameless food heating device was patented as early as 1893 (Patent No. 11, 909). There have been many subsequent patents describing chemical heaters for prepackaged shelf stable foods. Almost all prior food heaters were based on a calcium oxide heater, otherwise known as quicklime. When water is added to quicklime it hydrates and gives off heat. However, the material is bulky, heavy, and the resulting heater often weighs more than the food it is heating. In the early 1980's, the Army's Natick Laboratory learned of a different type of chemical heater that the Navy developed with University of Cincinnati researchers. This heater, based on the hypercorrosion of a magnesium-iron alloy, was developed for self-heated diving vests. It was more energetic than calcium oxide and had promise to provide a reasonably compact heater for rations.

In 1981, Natick funded a contract through the Navy, to the University of Cincinnati, to investigate the use of this heating material for rations. This contract

resulted in the development of this first prototype heater for the Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) entree, known as the Dismantled Ration Heating Device (DRHD). US Patent No. 4,522,190 for a Flexible Electrochemical Heater, held by researchers from the University, Army Natick, and the Navy, was issued in 1985. The DRHD was independently field tested by the Army in 1984, but, lost out to another Natick developed item called the Canteen Cup Stand (CCS). The CCS is used with a trioxane fuel bar. After the solid fuel bar is lit and placed under the CCS, it will heat a canteen cup filled with water and the MRE. The CCS was type classified and thousands were purchased and fielded. However, surveys found that although the CCS was a good item, fuel bars were often not available because they were supplied through a different channel than the rations. Even when available, a soldier took about 20 minutes to heat an MRE and used a full canteen cup of water. If time or potable water were limited, soldiers ate cold meals.

The Chief of Staff, Army, recognized this persistent 'cold ration problem' and issued a challenge to make 1989 the year of the hot ration. Natick Laboratory quickly reviewed a variety of technologies and once again focused on the DRHD. Natick engineers, chemists, and packaging technologists, quickly developed solutions to problems with chemical additives and innovative packaging, and developed new prototypes for the Services to evaluate. An aggressive development, test, and acquisition strategy was prepared that perfected the design, and met all military requirements through a series of rapid user tests. A Joint Military Working Group meeting was convened and the Flameless Ration Heater (FRH) was officially adopted by the Services. Two preproduction

contracts were awarded in 1990, which positioned Natick to provide immediate support to Operation Desert Shield. Approximately 4.5 million FRHs were shipped to South West Asia. In 1991, the FRH was selected by Research and Development Magazine's "R&D 100 Awards Competition" as one of the top 100 most significant technical products of 1990. Currently, the FRH is packaged with every MRE to ensure that all warfighters can enjoy a hot meal while on duty.

Today, while most sales of the FRH are for the military, there is **a growing commercial market** for the FRH to heat commercial meals similar to the MRE. Work is also being done to develop a heater that can be used to heat shelf-stable foods in semi-rigid containers such as the "Lunch Bucket" and "Top Shelf." **Spin-offs of this technology have led to the commercial development of heaters for non-food applications, such as heaters for curing epoxy patches in cold weather and heaters for thawing frozen pipes.**

This joint venture produced a FRH that takes a fraction of the time and water required by the canteen cup/fuel bar method of heating. The FRH is flameless, produces no noxious combustion products, and can be activated in shelters, or even in a warfighter's pocket while on the move. Further, it will keep the MRE warm for approximately one hour if a tactical situation prevents the warfighter from eating immediately. Think of the possibilities for use--firefighters, disaster relief workers, civil disobedience control units, campers, climbers, and hikers. The uses are limitless. (Don Pickard/Lauren Oleksyk/Army-Natick Laboratory/ 508-651-5036)

RECENT POLICY PUBLICATIONS

Policy Memo 95-4 "Digitized Database of Standardization Documents" was signed out by the Chairman, Defense Standards Improvement Council, on July 24, 1995. This document is the Department of Defense (DoD) plan for creating a valid, centralized database--in a uniform digital format--of the military and federal standardization documents listed in the DoD Index of Specifications and Standards. The plan is to be implemented at the appropriate levels in DoD Commands and Centers and schedules are to be met. Activities needing assistance or having questions, can call **Mr. Ray Bowser** of the Automation Help Desk on DSN 442-6257 or commercial (215) 697-6257.

Policy Memo 95-5, "Specifications and Standards Acquisition Reform Initiative-Measuring Our Progress" was signed out by the Chairman, Defense Standards Improvement Council, on July 25, 1995. This document is an update to the reporting requirements for measuring progress in specifications and standards reform. Attachment 1 is the quarterly report requirements. New reporting requirements for the review of Requests for Proposals and Contracts and to track the implementation of the Council's document decisions has been added. Attachment 2 is a monthly report to update funding status. The Council Chairman also requested that the Departmental Standardization Offices provide monthly reports of at least two detailed discussions of military specifications and standards reform accomplishments.

Both Policy Memos were posted to the **Defense Standardization Program**

Home Page and can be accessed through the information provided in the

"Subscriptions" article.
(Sharon Strickland/SPD/703-681-9340)

Points of Contact for the Defense Standardization Program

The following is an updated list of the Departmental Standardization Office Heads, and the Standards Improvement Executives (SIEs). The Defense Standards Improvement Council (DSIC) is comprised of the SIEs. **Changes are marked in boldface type**

Departmental Standardization Office Heads

Name	Department or Agency	Telephone Numbers	FAX Number
Mr. Andrew D. Certo	OASD(ES)IA/AP/SPD	703-681-9340	703-681-7622
certoad@acq.osd.mil		DSN 761-9340	DSN 761-7622
Mr. Walter Gooley, Jr.	Army Materiel Command	703-274-9655	703-274-8256
wgooley@hqamc.army.mil	AMCRD-IEE	DSN 284-9655	
POC: Lynn Mohler	lmohler@hqamc.army.mil	703-274-5101	703-274-8256
CDR Robert Petroka	ASN (RD&A) APIA/AP	703-602-0136	703-602-5481
Petroka_Bob@asnrdad.acq-ref.navy.mil		DSN 332-0136	
Mr. Clark Walker	SAF/AQX (DepSO)	703-693-3218	703-614-2936
		DSN 223-3218	
Mr. David Taylor(Acting)	Defense Logistics Agency	703-767-1642	703-767-2602
david_taylor@hq.dla.mil	MMSLP	DSN 427-1642	
Mr. David Sweet	Defense Information	703-735-3541	703-735-3575
	Systems Agency	DSN 653-3541	
Mr. Billy Love	Defense Mapping Agency	703-285-9240	703-285-9383
		DSN 356-9240	

Standards Improvement Executives

Mr. Walter B. Bergmann	OASD(ES)IA/AP	703-695-7458	703-693-6990
	Chairman, DSIC	DSN 225-7458	
Dr. Kenneth J. Oscar	OASA(RD&A)SARD -ZP	703-695-2488	703-614-9505
		DSN 225-2488	
Mr. Dan Porter	ASN (RD&A)	703-602-0136	703-602-5481
		DSN 332-0136	

Mr. James Bair

AF/AFMC/EN

513-257-2259

513-476-1089

DSN 787-2259

Mr. Thomas Ridgway(Acting)Defense Logistics Agency**703-767-2610****703-767-2602**

thomas_ridgeway@hq.dla.mmmSLP

DSN 427-2610**August 14, 1995**